

### **In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-15 (Previously canceled).

16. (Previously amended) An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.

17. (Previously canceled).

18. (Previously amended) An isolated polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide ~~according to claim 18~~ having an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 2 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~wherein the N-terminal methionine residue of the polypeptide is deleted.~~

20. (Currently amended). An isolated polypeptide ~~according to claim 18~~ having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:55, ~~wherein the secretory amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is removed.~~

Claims 21-24 (Previously canceled).

25. (Previously canceled) A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% identity SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual, and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

Claims 26-32 (Previously canceled).

33. (Previously canceled).

34. (Currently amended). ~~The A vaccine composition of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide lacks an N-terminal methionine residue~~ comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 2 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO:2.

35. (Currently amended). ~~The A vaccine composition of claim 25, wherein the secretory amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is deleted~~ comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:55.

Claims 36, 37 and 38 (Previously canceled).

39. (Previously added). The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the individual is a human, a mouse or a rat.

40. (Previously added). The vaccine composition of claim 25, wherein said adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of Freund's complete adjuvant, Freund's incomplete adjuvant,  $\text{AlK}(\text{SO}_4)_2$ ,  $\text{AlNa}(\text{SO}_4)_2$ ,  $\text{AlNH}_4(\text{SO}_4)_2$ , silica, kaolin, carbon polynucleotides, QuilA and Alhydrogel.

41. (Previously amended). The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, said polypeptide having at least a 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

42. (Previously added). The vaccine composition of claim 25, said polypeptide having at least a 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.